

My name is Dawn Metcalf and I am a parent of a special needs child who benefits from music therapy.

I am writing you to ask for your support of **Raised Senate Bill 354**, a bill that will create a music therapy license in Connecticut, which will help Connecticut citizens to more easily access music therapy services and protect the public by ensuring that these services are provided by trained and qualified practitioners.

Please note that my support of licensure for music therapy is dependent on some language changes which have been submitted as written testimony by Jennifer Sokira on behalf of the CT Task Force. These changes ensure that the license is reflective of current board certification requirements in music therapy and is not limiting to the practices of Board Certified Music Therapists currently in CT.

My son struggled with school objectives as written on his IEP and by employing music therapy, he was able to quickly master OT, speech and behavioral objectives that had otherwise presented a significant challenge and barrier to his school learning. Finding a highly-qualified music therapist was an interesting adventure weeding through well-meaning music teachers and music degree candidates, but when we found a licensed Music Therapist, it made all the difference in his learning and success. If there was a standard which was upheld in Connecticut for individuals and school systems could access with confidence, then the benefits of trained individuals would be more readily available to children like my son. And if these were recognized under the umbrella of acceptable and measurable services by insurance companies, this would make an immeasurable contribution to families and schools such as ours.

For all these reasons, I ask that you please vote “yes” on **Raised Senate Bill 354**!

Sincerely,

Dawn Metcalf
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